

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.    A portable computer, comprising:

              a portable computer housing having a top deck  
                      with an opening disposed over a selected  
                      component;

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              a display coupled to the portable computer  
                      housing, the display being movable to a  
                      closed position along the top deck; and

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              a component cover mounted over the opening, the  
                      component cover having tool-less actuation  
                      to an open position to permit access to the  
                      selected component.

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              2.    The portable computer as recited in claim 1,  
              further comprising a network card removably disposed  
              beneath the component cover.

3. The portable computer as recited in claim 2,  
further comprising a real time clock battery disposed  
beneath the component cover.

5 4. The portable computer as recited in claim 3,  
further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the  
component cover.

10 5. The portable computer as recited in claim 1,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one tab  
positioned to engage the portable computer housing  
proximate the opening.

15 6. The portable computer as recited in claim 5,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one flexible  
catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to  
releasable hold the component cover over the opening.

20 7. The portable computer as recited in claim 6,  
wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic  
material.

8. The portable computer as recited in claim 2,  
wherein the display is coupled to the portable computer  
housing by a hinge.

5 9. The portable computer as recited in claim 2,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one tab  
positioned to engage the portable computer housing  
proximate the opening.

10 10. The portable computer as recited in claim 9,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one flexible  
catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to  
releasable hold the component cover over the opening.

15 11. The portable computer as recited in claim 2,  
wherein the portable computer housing is a notebook  
computer housing.

12. An electronic device, comprising:

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a device housing having a top deck with an  
opening disposed over a selected component;

a display coupled to the device housing, the  
display being movable to a closed position  
along the top deck; and

5 a component cover mounted over the opening, the  
component cover having tool-less actuation  
to an open position to permit access to the  
selected component.

10 13. The electronic device as recited in claim 12,  
further comprising a network card disposed beneath the  
component cover.

15 14. The electronic device as recited in claim 13,  
further comprising a real time clock battery disposed  
beneath the component cover.

20 15. The electronic device as recited in claim 14,  
further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the  
component cover.

16. The electronic device as recited in claim 12,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one tab

positioned to engage the device housing proximate the opening.

17. The electronic device as recited in claim 16,  
5 wherein the component cover comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to releasable hold the component cover over the opening.

18. The electronic device as recited in claim 17,  
10 wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic material.

19. The electronic device as recited in claim 13,  
wherein the display is coupled to the device housing by a  
15 hinge.

20. The electronic device as recited in claim 13,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one tab  
positioned to engage the device housing proximate the  
20 opening.

21. The electronic device as recited in claim 20,  
wherein the component cover comprises at least one flexible

catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to  
releasably hold the component cover over the opening.

22. A method of facilitating replacement of a modem  
5 card in a device capable of communicating over a network,  
comprising:

10 locating a modem card connector within a portable  
computer housing at a position between a  
motherboard and a top deck of the housing;

forming an opening through the top deck proximate  
the modem card connector; and

15 connecting a quick-release cover to the portable  
computer housing to cover the opening.

23. The method as recited in claim 22, further  
comprising connecting a network card to the modem card  
20 connector.

24. The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising mounting a real time clock battery beneath the quick-release cover.

5        25. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising placing a BIOS firmware hub beneath the quick-release cover.

26. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein  
10       connecting comprises coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer housing with a plurality of tabs.

27. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein  
15       connecting further comprises coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer housing with a flexible catch.

28. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein  
forming comprises forming the opening adjacent a computer  
20       keyboard.

29. A system of facilitating replacement of a modem card in a device capable of communicating over a network, comprising:

5 means for locating a modem card connector within a portable computer housing at a position between a motherboard and a top deck of the housing;

10 means for forming an opening through the top deck proximate the modem card connector; and

means for connecting a quick-release cover to the portable computer housing to cover the  
15 opening.

30. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the means for forming comprises an edge defining the opening.

20 31. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the means for connecting comprises at least one flexible catch.